

AN ORDINANCE AND CHARTER AMENDMENT
BY COUNCILMAN C. T. MARTIN

Harry Norman
Natasha Archibald

AN ORDINANCE AND CHARTER AMENDMENT ADOPTED UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE ACT OF 1965 (GA. LAWS 1965, p. 298, ET SEQ.) AS AMENDED, TO CREATE A NEW SECTION 3-502.1 (ENTITLED "ORDINANCE REQUIRED TO IMPOSE FURLOUGHS ON CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES") OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA (GA. LAWS 1996, P. 4469, ET SEQ.) APPROVED APRIL 15, 1996, AS AMENDED, WHICH SHALL PROVIDE THAT AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO IMPOSE FURLOUGHS ON CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND CHARTER AMENDMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, by an Administrative Order issued by the Mayor of the City of Atlanta dated December 2, 2008, all employees in General Fund Departments (except for a few specified employee groups), were furloughed eight (8) hours per pay period; and

WHEREAS, the furlough of sworn employees in the Departments of Police, Fire and Rescue and Corrections and of 911 Emergency Operators, decrease the coverage of resources devoted to public safety in the City of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, the furlough of such employees endangers the lives of police officers, firefighters and correctional officers; and

WHEREAS, violent crime is increasing in certain areas of the city; and

WHEREAS, furloughs in the Fire and Rescue Department have increased emergency response time and further increased the risk of loss and harm to life and property in the city; and

WHEREAS, furloughs cause a decrease in income to these employees and also contribute to a reduction in the morale of those so affected.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, HEREBY ORDAINS as follows:

Section 1: A new section of the Charter of the City of Atlanta, to be designated as Section 3-502.1 and entitled **Ordinance required to impose furloughs on certain public safety employees** is hereby created which shall provide as follows:

Section 3-502.1. **Ordinance required to impose furloughs on certain public safety employees.**

Due the importance and highest priority of public safety to the residents of and visitors to the city, it is the policy of the city, that furloughs shall not be imposed upon sworn employees in the Departments of Police, Fire and Rescue and Corrections and 911 Emergency Operators, unless or until an ordinance so authorizing such furloughs has been duly adopted by a majority vote of the council. Any furloughs imposed upon such public safety personnel in contravention of this charter provision shall be null, void and of no effect.

Section 2: A copy of this proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Atlanta, Georgia (Ga. Laws 1996, p.4469, et seq.), approved April 15, 1996, as amended, shall be filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk of the City of Atlanta and in the Offices of the Clerks of the Superior Courts of Fulton and DeKalb Counties and that a "Notice of Proposed Amendment to the Charter of the City of Atlanta, Georgia", attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and by reference, made a part hereof, be published in the official organ of the county of the legal situs of the City of Atlanta or in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Atlanta once a week for three weeks within a period of 60 days immediately preceding its final adoption.

Section 3: All ordinances and charter amendments or parts of ordinances and charter amendments in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

EXHIBIT "A"

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

Notice is hereby given that an ordinance has been introduced to amend the Charter of the City of Atlanta, Georgia to create a new Section 3-502.1 (entitled "Ordinance required to impose furloughs on certain public safety employees") of the Charter of the City of Atlanta, Georgia (Ga. laws 1996, p. 4469, et seq.) approved April 15, 1996, as amended, which shall provide that an ordinance adopted by a majority vote of the council shall be required in order to impose furloughs on certain public safety employees; to repeal conflicting ordinances and charter amendments; and for other purposes.

A copy of the proposed amendment is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk of the City of Atlanta and in the offices of the Clerks of the Superior Courts of Fulton and DeKalb Counties, Georgia, for purposes of examination and inspection by the public.

This _____ day of _____, 2009.

Rhonda Dauphin Johnson
Municipal Clerk
City of Atlanta